

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor • Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor • S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

IMPORTANT NOTICE

January 4, 2005

Dear WIC Vendor:

Emergency changes to Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.54.03 - Retail Food and Pharmacy Vendors became effective December 22, 2004. Among the changes are:

Minimum Stock Requirement

All WIC vendors must now stock infant formula in the following types and quantities:

- 31 13 ounce cans of Liquid Concentrated Enfamil w/Iron
- 31 13 ounce cans of Liquid Concentrated Enfamil w/Iron Lipil
- 31 13 ounce cans of Liquid Concentrated Prosobee
- 31 13 ounce cans of Liquid Concentrated Prosobee Lipil
- 4 14.3 ounce cans of Powdered Enfamil w/Iron
- 4 12.9 ounce cans of Powdered Enfamil w/Iron Lipil
- 4 14.3 ounce cans of Powdered Prosobee
- 4 12.9 ounce cans of Powdered Prosobee Lipil

Vendor Authorization

Vendor applicants are now required to have authorization by the Food Stamp Program *prior* to applying for WIC Authorization.

All of the COMAR changes were published in the Maryland Register, Volume 31, Issue 26. Comments regarding these changes may be sent to Michele Phinney, Director, Office of Regulation and Policy Coordination, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 201 W. Preston Street, Room 521, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, or call 410-767-6499, or 1-877-4MD-DHMH, extension 6499, or fax to 410-333-7687, or email to regs@dhmh.state.md.us. Comments will be accepted through January 27, 2005.

On December 20, 2004 the Office of the Maryland WIC Program officially implemented its new web enabled Management Information System (MIS). The new MIS system is now known as WIC on the Web or WOW. The only changes the WIC Vendors will notice are slight changes to the appearance of Maryland WIC checks. These changes were made with you, the WIC vendor, in mind. Checks issued to infant participants will have a water mark superimposed in the food prescription box specifically indicating that the check permits the purchase of, either, formula, juice, or cereal. A new "Date Redeemed" box appears between the first and last dates to spend and is for your optional use.

We encourage you to familiarize your personnel with these new features. Their use may prevent your cashiers from accepting checks prior to, or after the valid dates and other common mistakes. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258 or 1-800-242-4WIC.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Knolhoff, MPH, Director Office of the Maryland WIC Program

cc: Local WIC Agencies